



Families Against Incinerator Risk

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September 4, 2001

The Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

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Dear Secretary Abraham,

On behalf of Families Against Incinerator Risk (FAIR), a Salt Lake City-based non-profit organization, I am writing to express our serious objection to the lack of proper, reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing on the Department of Energy's (DOE) Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation (PSSE) report, and its recommendation of Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for a national high-level nuclear waste repository. FAIR hereby joins other organizations and individuals in urging you to cancel these hearings and discontinue all site recommendation activities until outstanding technical and regulatory issues have been resolved.


We believe that the hearings announced by the Department of Energy in the Federal Register on August 21, 2001 were provided with totally inadequate notice, and that holding the hearings in the heavily guarded, fenced DOE building in North Las Vegas discourages public participation.

In addition to significant scientific uncertainties about the repository project, a safe transportation scenario has not been identified, the required environmental impact statement has not been released, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not issued licensing regulations, and the DOE is relying on proposed changes to the Siting Guidelines that have yet to be finalized. To prematurely hold hearings now makes a mockery of the process for public participation mandated by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and dangerously undermines public confidence in the DOE as a fair and unbiased arbiter of the Yucca Mountain repository proposal.

Moreover, because Utah will be a funnel point for the majority of nuclear shipments to Yucca Mountain if it is approved, we call on you to hold public hearings *with adequate notice* in Salt Lake City on the Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Recommendation based on transportation concerns.

We hope you will agree to cancel the September site recommendation hearings in Nevada immediately. The public cannot have confidence in any recommendation that arises from such an undemocratic process.

Sincerely,


Jason Greenewold, Director
Families Against Incinerator Risk

◆ FAIR's Mission is to Protect Public Health by Reducing Utah's Toxic Emissions ◆

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